

92  
APRIL 2011

EUREKA  
NEWS

# Spotlight on the Netherlands: Public research and innovation support

We specialise in  
areas where we  
are world leaders



Marco Commandeur and Taake Manning,  
on Dutch national innovation policy



Eurostars events, results and next application  
deadlines



Dr Eli Opper at the Renewable Energy  
Conference, Eilat

# Table of contents



**EUREKA** is a European network for market-oriented R&D. Its aim is to strengthen European competitiveness by promoting market-driven collaborative research and technological development. EUREKA enables industry, universities and research institutes from 40 member countries and the EU to collaborate in a 'bottom-up' approach to developing and exploiting innovative technologies.

**EUREKA News** is published four times a year in English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. An online version is available on [www.eurekanetwork.org](http://www.eurekanetwork.org)

**Publisher:** Luuk Borg

**Editorial Coordinator:** Eleni Seriatou

**Contributions:** EUREKA

**Design:** Crozz Communication

**Translations:** Berlitz

**Printing:** Artoos

**Photography:** with thanks to EUREKA project participants, the Israeli EUREKA Chair, the Dutch EUREKA Office, the Korean Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT) and the European Commission for any assistance and material provided in the production of this issue.

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## 3 Editorial

## 4 Project showcase

**E! 4038FIBRE-XM**  
Tailor-made paper products



## 5 Project showcase

**EUREKA 3D TESTBENCH project**  
The big picture on complexity



## 6 - 7 Country focus

Public research and innovation support  
in a small but hi-tech country



## 8 - 9 EUREKA Academy events

**Venture Capital in Europe:**  
Are we willing to take the risk?

EUREKA meets Cleantech



## 10 - 11 Chairmanship event

Eilat-Eilot Renewable Energy Conference



## 12 - 13 Viewpoint

"To make Europe more SME friendly"



## 14 - 15 News in brief



## 16 EUREKA Days in Korea

Seoul, South-Korea



# “Entrepreneurs are good at doing business and not at filling out forms...”

*As the European Parliament's rapporteur on the Innovation Union, I believe there are four prominent things on which we should concentrate to boost innovation and enhance cross-border cooperation: clear focus; financing; fighting red tape and coordination. The EU should focus on tackling the grand societal challenges and focusing on the results it wants to achieve. Coordination between all layers of government, while maintaining a coherent approach, is important. Access to finance, especially for SMEs, is essential. Entrepreneurs are good at doing business and not at filling out forms - bringing creative new ideas to the market should not be hampered by lengthy bureaucratic procedures.*

*We do face challenges in our efforts to achieve an Innovation Union, the greatest possibly being the clear focus necessary to reach our goal: currently, the EU and member states want to bet on too many horses. A clear focus should be paired with a holistic approach throughout the EU. For instance, the merging of financial instruments and funds, wherever possible.*

*SMEs are currently facing difficulty finding suitable investors; here, EUREKA, with its current focus on finding alternative funding mechanisms for its clients, could help by supporting the idea of expanding financing systems like the Risk Sharing Finance Facility (RSFF) and by supporting the idea of a one-stop shop. I believe that the EU should reach out to every citizen, business - especially the smaller ones, to research institutes, but also to local and regional governments, by creating a 'service counter' that can direct an applicant to the right financial instrument and can match applicants to the right partners.*

*Judith Merkies is rapporteur on the Innovation Union, one of the so-called Europe 2020 Strategy flagship initiatives. According to Merkies, citizen participation and involvement in the Innovation Union is paramount. The focus has always been on industry and on groups; however, Merkies believes individual creativity is the driving force behind change. The gap between research, innovation, enterprise and market can and must be bridged, she insists. She wants greater political focus on the grand societal challenges, measurable targets, and improved cooperation between researchers, businesses (SMEs), citizens and local government. She supports a focus on the grand societal challenges, but wants even more focus. Legislation must spark ambitious innovation, but must at the same time be pragmatic and realistic and reduce the administrative burden instead of adding to it, Merkies claims. Merging of funds, where possible is therefore an absolute must. She is a strong advocate for the creation of accessibility through a 'one-stop shop' - a service counter that takes over or helps with administrative tasks. Adequate and accessible funding is at the foundation of innovation creation, she says.*

*Borders and different regulatory, licensing and patenting schemes must not hamper innovation, which calls for the completion of the internal market. Merkies is adamant that Europe must retain the industries it still has, supporting their development towards sustainable enterprise and keeping them in Europe.*



### Judith MERKIES MEP

Member of the European Parliament

Merkies became a Member of the European Parliament in 2009. Aside from her membership of committees and delegations, she is vice-chairman of the Water Intergroup; she is extended board member of EUFORES as well as member of GLOBE EU. She holds a law degree from the University of Amsterdam and pursued a career as a lawyer before taking on post-graduate studies in European and International Law. Merkies has a strong background in working with the institutions of the European Union as well as representing the interests of various industries. Prior to becoming a Member of the European Parliament, Merkies worked in the European Commission.

# Project showcase

E! 4038 FIBRE-XM

## Tailor-made paper products

Good research requires flexibility and adaptation. Dyadic, a Dutch SME, together with the Swedish organisations SweTree technologies and the Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, had the idea of using a new enzyme-based technology to develop applications for the paper industry. The project, called FIBRE-XM, came to a good end, but not using the technology that the researchers originally had in mind.



Dyadic develops and produces, using fungi, enzymes used in the production of biofuels, biochemicals, and paper. The star of the show is the fungus *Chrysosporium lucknowense*: producing a wide range of enzymes thanks to its specific properties. Its major advantage is that it can achieve high production levels at low costs and Dyadic researchers know this fungus inside out.

Wanting to develop new applications using enzymes, the Swedish company SweTree, specialising in the development of new applications for cellulose fibres, enquired about cooperation with Dyadic. Åsa Ek, project leader at SweTree, explains the original idea: “We wanted to create paper products having properties exactly to order, using an enzyme called XET, in order to create applications for the medical and diagnostic industry and using low value materials.”

### A good support

Although there are large companies active in the field of enzyme production in Scandinavia, SweTree deliberately chose to work with Dyadic. “They have an extensive expertise, but the fact that Dyadic is also an SME was important: this meant that we were equal partners.” Together with KTH, they submitted

an application for funding through EUREKA. Both partners are enthusiastic about the support: “we are small and do not have any funding experts in house,” says Hans Visser, from Dyadic, “it was important to have a contact person giving us advice.”

SweTree quickly achieved important results, and found interesting applications. But things did not get off to such a flying start for Dyadic: “XET is an enzyme which is made by plants naturally,” explains Jaap Visser, consultant at Dyadic. “Producing plant enzymes with the help of fungi is quite a challenge. We were able to get the fungus to produce XET, but we did not reach the production levels we had in mind.” The partners then decided to look for alternative ways to produce the enzyme.

### The Flexibility of EUREKA

“It was precisely at this point that we experienced the added value of the EUREKA programme,” says Hans Visser. “In good consultation with EUREKA advisers, we were able to adapt our project plan, avoiding a waste of time and money. At EUREKA, it is more about achieving results, and less about following procedures.”

The change is already bearing fruits: Dyadic succeeded in developing a new process requiring a specific fungus enzyme and reaching production volumes which are commercially viable. Furthermore, “the production of the fungus is extremely pure. Additional purification steps are not necessary, which keeps

the cost price down” explains Hans Visser.

### Bright future

Using the results of this project, SweTree has developed a wide range of high-quality applications. A number of interesting products for the diagnostic and medical industry, in which cellulose can now replace other raw materials, were developed, as well as new products for the paper, cardboard and packaging market. The company is currently in discussions with

various customers and products based on its modified fibres will reach the market in a close future.

Dyadic, on its side, build up knowledge on the behaviour of *Chrysosporium lucknowense*, which

could benefit the biofuel industry, and is now able to propose ways to manufacture some materials with a lower environmental impact.

We are also using the knowledge from this project in other areas.

Jaap Visser

#### Companies participating in the project:

SweTree Technologies, Dyadic, Royal Institute of Technology

**Countries involved:** Sweden, the Netherlands

**Budget:** 1.1 M euro

**Dyadic,** Nieuwe Kanaal 7-5, 6709 PA Wageningen, The Netherlands

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## The big picture on complexity

Reducing complexity might be one of the major goals of the 21<sup>st</sup> century: every day we are exposed to an increasing amount of information that we are unable to digest and there is no sign of a downturn. In the engineering field, this is translated into a high number of parameters to take into consideration, as development projects increase in size and are often too complex to be grasped entirely by one single person. Now, a European R&D cooperation, the EUREKA 3D TESTBENCH project, might be bringing an improvement in project managers' complicated lives.

Research facility environments are becoming more and more complex and interaction between different units is a growing challenge. The solution proposed by a team headed by Andy De Mets, leader of the 3D TESTBENCH project and R&D projects coordinator at Barco, is the integration of all the tools used by different groups into a single instrument, which, in turn, is compatible with all of them. 'In fact,' says De Mets, 'a lot of engineering tools and software are being used and these tools are not always conceived to interact with each other.'

The outcome of 3D TESTBENCH looks like a giant 3D screen or 'wall' where all the stages of the engineering and product conception process are displayed. Change one aspect of the project and the ramifications at all of its stages will show, highlighting potential conflicts. Of course, the system developed within the 3D TESTBENCH project needs to be adaptive. It does not consist of one single application, it is more 'the wall and its workflow management application that are at the heart of the system' says De Mets.

**The complementary expertise and enthusiasm of the human team-force that was brought together was a crucial aspect for the success of the project.**

Andy De Mets

### Failure is not an option

'If you look at the way R&D is performed nowadays, you will see it is characterised by both diversification and specialisation.'



In other words, many different people are overlooking extremely precise parts of a project, nobody gets to see the big picture and the likelihood of somebody making a major mistake is increased. For some companies, failure is not an option: in the aeronautical industry the poor management of a complex project can end up putting many lives at risk.

The first user – but also project partner – of the new device developed was Fokker Elmo, a company specialising in aerospace engineering.

As the consortium's guinea-pig, it supplied the model, which allowed the optimisation of the workflow tool. Barco, a company specialising in visualisation instruments developed the 3D wall, working closely with

NOESIS Solutions, a simulation solutions provider from Leuven, Belgium.

### Major industry players

The Technical University of Delft in the Netherlands, and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Brussels, Belgium brought in the academic background in complex project modelling necessary to develop the project. 'The complementary expertise and enthusiasm of the human team-force that was brought together was a crucial aspect for the success of the project', says De Mets.

Possible applications are very broad, as the project offers the solution to a problem potentially faced by every type of organisation. Companies that have already contacted the research team represent major players from the automotive industry and the energy sector. Just to prove their conviction of the need for such a system, the 3D TESTBENCH partners even used the finished system to coordinate the last stages of... the project itself!

# Country focus: the Netherlands

## Public research and innovation support in a small but hi-tech country

'We specialise in areas where we are world leaders.' Marco Commandeur, EUREKA Deputy High-Level Representative (HLR) and Taake Manning, EUREKA National Project Coordinator for the Netherlands talk to EUREKA News about Dutch national innovation policy.



### **EUREKA News: What are the ambitions of Dutch innovation policy?**

Marco Commandeur: Although the Netherlands has a varied and open economy, with companies active in all technology fields and application domains, there are clearly some domains in which we are stronger. Here, there is a concentration of companies and academia that are among the world leaders in their field; they excel at what they do, both in terms of innovation, but also in terms of exports. For the past five years, our policy has been to strengthen these 'Top Economic Sectors', as we call them. In addition to our efforts in these top sectors, we also have a more basic support package that is open to all innovative companies. This package includes research and development tax incentives and state guarantees for commercial loans to companies needing capital to grow.

### **EN: Which 'Top Economic Sectors' are concerned?**

Taake Manning: We concentrate on a number of top sectors. These include the

high-tech industry, centred on companies such as Philips and ASML; automotive technology; water technology; life sciences (red biotech) and agro-food technology. Within these top sectors, we aim to strengthen the ecosystem of companies – big and small – and academia, as well as their international reputation. It's a holistic approach in which we try to eliminate any obstacles that hamper growth, be it in terms of innovation, education, financing, international trade or regulatory. Our approach is demand-driven and tailor-made. It is planned together with representatives from the sectors.

### **EN: Why the decision to focus on particular sectors?**

TM: While the Netherlands is good at many things, it is an illusion to think that we can be excellent at everything. In times of globalisation, an open economy like the Dutch one needs to specialise in a few areas in which it is among the world leaders and can seriously compete. Other countries can continue doing what they are best at.



**In times of globalisation, an open economy like the Dutch one needs to specialise in a few areas in which it is among the world leaders and can seriously compete.**

Taake Manning

### **EN: How is this focus organised in terms of support**

**for companies? Is there a relation with European instruments, such as the EU**

Gross domestic product:  
(Source: Statistics Netherlands,  
National accounts of the Netherlands)

**566.5** billion euro

GDP growth: **2.4%**

### Framework Programme (FP7)?

MC: Our support for companies is divided into a two-tier system. We have a number of programmes and support schemes that are open to projects in all areas. Then we have specific programmes for our top sectors. The type of support will vary according to the sector's specific needs. Obviously, these programmes are only open to projects that fit within each sector's strategic roadmap. Most of the support schemes for the top sectors are aimed at collaborative R&D projects.

bottom-up, such as the EUREKA-Eurostars joint programme and the national SME innovation loan scheme (BMKB). We also have other programmes that are popular with SMEs, such as the Innovation Performance Contracts (IPC), which stimulate companies to subcontract research to universities.

### EN: What is the importance of international cooperation?

TM: We are a small country. Although we may be world leaders in some areas, inter-

Without international R&D cooperation, our country would be worse off than it is today.

### EN: What is the current funding situation in the Netherlands – and what are your expectations for the near future?

MC: The world-wide economic and financial crisis has had a strong impact on the government's budget. Although the Netherlands is better off than many other European countries, there is a strong feeling that



TM: When deciding upon a sector's strategy, we always include and make use of any international programmes. We do our best to make our national schemes complementary to the EU FP, although it's not always possible. We also take into account the roadmaps of the EUREKA Clusters and other European instruments, such as the Joint Technology Initiatives.

### EN: Is there specific support for SMEs?

MC: Specific support for SMEs is available in a number of schemes. Most of those that are targeted at SMEs are



Although the Netherlands is better off than many other European countries... budget cuts are necessary to restore health in public finance. Funding for innovation - and therefore for EUREKA - will be affected.

Marco Commandeur

national cooperation is essential to remain an important player: it gives us access to new knowledge and new markets. Let's not forget that 98% of the world market is outside of our frontiers!

### EN: What is the added value for a Dutch company of participating in the FP, EUREKA or Eurostars?

TM: Through international cooperation, our companies gain access to new ideas, new knowledge and new markets.

MC: It forces Dutch companies to specialise in what they do best and allow them to excel and profit from it.

budget cuts are necessary to restore health in public finance. Funding for innovation – and therefore for EUREKA – will be affected too, although we still do not know how.

TM: Counter-intuitively, this is a great opportunity for EUREKA. Partly as a result of the expected imminent cutbacks, the wisdom of using grants to promote market-oriented R&D is being questioned. We will probably change our grant schemes to risk-bearing loans and merge them into one large revolving fund. This means that EUREKA projects will have a bigger budget available to them than ever before.

Netherlands Agency  
<http://www.agentschapnl.nl>

Innovation Performance Contracts (IPC)  
<http://regelingen.agentschapnl.nl/content/innovatieprestatiecontracten-ipc>

Consumer price inflation: **1.8%**

Population: **16.5** million

# Venture Capital in Europe: Are we willing to take the risk?

On 26 January 2011, the EUREKA Secretariat was the venue for the event Venture Capital in Europe: Are we willing to take the risk?, gathering 90 high-level participants for a diverse series of presentations and an animated debate involving experts in the field of private investment from both the public and private sector.

This latest edition of the EUREKA Academy series of events was devised by the current Israeli Chairmanship, which has as a key priority to investigate second-round financing options for businesses participating in EUREKA R&D projects.

Speakers agreed with the need to share the risk with innovative SMEs and presented new ideas on how to do so. The idea of EUREKA supporting a company until commercialisation was appreciated by the speakers and the audience. The debate was moderated by independent financial journalist Stuart Langridge.

To consult the presentations, please visit [www.eurekanetwork.org](http://www.eurekanetwork.org)

## Speakers were:

- Eli Opper, EUREKA Chairman, Israel
- Claire Munck, Managing Director, European Trade Association for Business Angels, Seed Funds and other Early Stage Market Players (EBAN), Belgium
- Jean-François Le Prince, Senior Investment Manager, European Investment Fund (EIF)
- Jean-David Malo, DG Research European Commission
- Jelte Kromwijk Smits, Partner at Prime Ventures, the Netherlands
- Yigal Erlich, Chairman and managing partner of YOZMA Group, Israel
- Ulrich Hege, Professor, Department of Finance, HEC School of Management, France
- Federico Ruiz, vice-President, Engineering at SIDSA, Spain
- Erika Mann, Chair Evaluation Panel Risk-Sharing Finance Facility, former MEP, Germany
- Mr Alain Renck, Director international Affairs, OSEO, France
- Grant Peggie, Head of Innovation Investment Team, BIS, UK

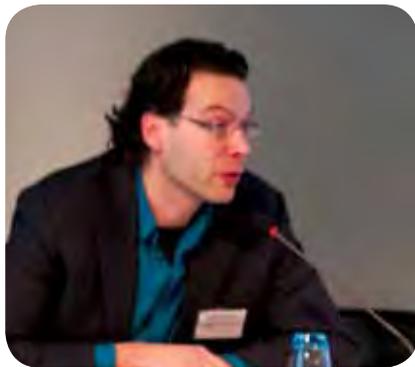
Moderated by Stuart Langridge, Independent Financial Journalist.



## EUREKA meets Cleantech: Funding innovations in renewables 2010

The EUREKA network, in collaboration with the Israeli EUREKA Chairmanship, launched the EUREKA Clean-Tech Action (ECTA), a thematic campaign aimed at encouraging R&D cooperation in the clean-tech sector with a renewable energy focus. A half-day workshop was organised as part of the EUREKA Academy series of events on 1st December 2010, at the EUREKA Secretariat's premises.

Distinguished speakers, research actors and funding bodies discussed how to generate additional projects and project ideas, allocate resources, launch dedicated calls, discuss the Eurostars evaluation system and advance the European Technology Platform's Strategic Research Agenda. The workshop was a precursor of the larger event that took place in Eilat, Israel, as one part of the Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Conference on 22-24 February 2011 (see next page).



# Chairmanship event

## Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Conference

Dr. Eli Oppen, EUREKA High-Level Group Chairman highlights the achievements of the Conference held in parallel with the EUREKA meetings in Eilat last February.

“As part of the EUREKA Clean-Tech Action and in parallel to the EUREKA meetings held on 22-24 February in Eilat, Israel, EUREKA hosted a panel at the 4th Annual Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Conference on 23 February. Israel’s southern-most city of Eilat was the backdrop for the event, where EUREKA delegates from 40 countries came together at a conference of more than 1,500 clean-tech innovators and stakeholders in the field. Panelists discussed the important topic of how policy tools can be used to encourage the development of a country’s renewable energy and clean-tech industries.

Participants heard examples of how countries like Israel, Britain and Canada are working to get policy in line with innovation.

Even companies that come from countries with an edge in the field need the support of their governments and of international organisations. Israel is advanced in R&D, with existing industrial clusters that enable progress in the clean-tech field, and there is more than 200 million dollars invested in innovative clean-tech start-ups in Israel. Still, there are barriers to further development and commercialisation. The lack of certainty and high-risk environment inherent in the field prevent entrepreneurs and firms, researchers and investors, from entering the market.

As such, government support and the support of platforms like EUREKA are crucial. Government grants and international cooperation programmes can help reduce

the risk and create the certainty these companies crave. The key tools such support programmes provide include steady budgets, knowledge transfer, funds for early and late stage development, and a platform for international cooperation.

Indeed, even though innovation is generally understood to be an individual or team activity, it cannot exist without the right conditions and a nurturing environment. Creating an environment conducive to innovation and the development of new technologies is the task not only of start-ups and Venture Capitalists. It is the task of government and innovation agencies, which must use policy as their tool. Nurturing innovation is one of the most important ways to encourage growth. Policy must play a role in that process.”

Since the start of the Israeli EUREKA Chairmanship (2010-2011), the EUREKA network has approved nearly 200 projects, mobilising more than 180 million euro for joint R&D initiatives across Europe. The network held its meetings on 22-24 February, in Eilat, marking the launch of the EUREKA Clean-Tech Action.

During the EUREKA meeting, held in parallel to and in cooperation with the 2011 Eilat-Eilat Renewable Energy Conference, EUREKA’s decision-makers approved 25 viable technologies and products through the EUREKA programme, totalling 33 million euro of investment. Six of the 25 projects approved under EUREKA’s individual projects programme have Israeli partners – representing almost 25% of the total.





## “To make Europe more SME-friendly”

EUREKA's new EU high-level representative, Clara de la Torre outlines the research and innovation landscape and EUREKA's contribution to it.



Clara de la Torre, EUREKA High-Level Representative for the European Union and Director at DG Research and Innovation's Directorate C, European Commission.

### 1. How should Joint Programming Initiatives in synergy with Member States be supported?

The EU and the Member States have made significant progress in developing partnerships to jointly implement research programmes as actions based on Article 185 TFEU.

The Innovation Union seeks to exploit opportunities for joint programming, cross-border co-operation and the leverage effects of EU instruments. We need to take into account that about 85% of R&D public funding is still implemented solely at national level and a better coordination of research and innovation programmes, as well as the creation of stronger joint programmes with Member States, will create new opportunities for cross-border research cooperation, especially for SMEs, to enter in international cooperation, to pool resources and avoid unnecessary fragmentation of effort and costly duplication and overlap.

The Innovation Union will facilitate more cross-border research programmes and co-funding from public funding agencies from different Member States, through the coordination of the programmes and the creation of stronger joint programmes with Member States.

So far, the experience with joint programmes, such as Eurostars, shows that a commitment at the highest political level from the Member States and a better harmonisation of national funding rules are essential.

**2. EUREKA's Eurostars Programme is cited as an example in the EC's Innovation Union communication for ensuring simple access and stronger involvement of SMEs. Access to funding for SMEs along the value chain is an important discussion topic. How should EU funding best cover the full innovation cycle from research to the market?**

Europe needs to couple research and innovation and thus to accelerate good ideas getting to market.

Future economic growth and jobs will predominantly come from innovation in products, services and business models. This is why innovation has been placed at the heart of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs. One of the main barriers for entrepreneurs to bring ideas to market is access to appropriate sources of finance, particularly for SMEs.

The financial crisis and the subsequent economic recession have aggravated the situation, hitting innovative SMEs the hardest. The assessment of previous Framework programmes on the economic impact for SMEs has shown that while research projects are seen as overwhelmingly positive by companies, nearly all industrial participants state that further work is necessary to introduce new research results into production. For such innovation activities, funding is very difficult to obtain as they come too early in the chain for Business Angels or Venture Capital funding.

If we want to bridge the gap between research and market we need to enhance access to finance all along the value chain, from 'blue sky' research to commercialisation by using

a flexible combination of funding instruments, such as grants, equity funding and guaranteed high risk loans.

This provides huge opportunities for synergy and integration as it requires a strong collaboration with national programmes, existing instruments and

the support of existing national/regional financial institutions.

**EUREKA has made a great effort in coordinating and synchronising national R&D&I measures and programmes within its member countries and this experience will be very valuable for the achievement of the objectives of the Innovation Union.**

**3. What measures should be taken to facilitate participation of SMEs in EU research and innovation programmes? How does Eurostars contribute to this perspective?**

In the Innovation Union Communication, the Commission has committed itself to design future EU research and innovation programmes to ensure simple access and stronger involvement of SMEs, in particular those with a high growth potential.

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn has also publicly stated that she is committed to making the successor

to the 7th Framework Programme 'the Commission's most SME-friendly funding scheme ever' and 'to make Europe more SME friendly'. While improving conditions for SME participation in research programmes is an ongoing task and some important measures have already been implemented in FP7, the whole system of support to R&D is still much too complex.

At the same time there is a strong call for streamlining the EU research and innovation funding instruments, in particular for SMEs.

The current European landscape for SME support is very scattered and the Commission is in the process of rethinking the overall approach. The Budget Review proposed that the full range of EU instruments for research and innovation work together in a Common Strategic Framework, a concept which has been supported by the European Council to improve the efficiency of research and innovation funding at national and EU level. It will allow a seamless funding across the innovation system and the rationalisa-

tion of instruments with the elimination of potential duplications.

Simplification of rules and procedures and better coordination of existing instruments and initiatives are key to encourage the participation of SMEs in cross-border research and innovation programmes.

Regarding Eurostars, its interim evaluation, which has been

recently carried out, has shown that this programme, with its distinctive combination of characteristics, appears to address R&D-performing SMEs and has attracted a high number of applications, although the number of real newcomers on the European scene remains limited.

Eurostars is a good example of joint programme between the EU and the Member States that complements the opportunities offered to SMEs by existing instruments, even if a number of issues like further harmonisation of national rules and time-to-contract require improvement. The interest generated by Eurostars, encourages us to further explore this kind of approach.

#### **4. Which steps might be challenging to achieve the Innovation Union and where do you see EUREKA in the process?**

The biggest challenge for the EU and its Member States is to adopt a much more strategic approach to innovation that im-

**Our cooperation with EUREKA and the scope for closer synergies is increasing and will further increase in the near future.**



*Fernando Trabada Crende, EUREKA's National Project Coordinator for the European Union.*

proves performance across the whole breadth of the EU research and innovation system.

In this approach, innovation must be the overarching policy objective and policy instruments, measures and funding programmes should be designed to contribute to innovation.

Moreover, this strategic approach should facilitate a close alignment and reinforcement of EU and national/regional policies.

In this regard, EUREKA has made a great effort in coordinating and synchronising national R&D&I measures and programmes within its member countries and this experience will be very valuable for the achievement of the objectives of the Innovation Union.

Our cooperation with EUREKA and the scope for closer synergies is increasing and will further increase in the near future.



**eurostars™**

#### **Eurostars Programme – 6th Cut-Off**

Eurostars has shown itself to be the programme of choice for European R&D performing SMEs today. The sixth Eurostars cut-off has seen a 17% rise in the number of applications, with a grand total of 401 submissions.

1,301 organisations from 36 different countries are involved, 72% of which are SMEs. The interest of Eurostars is also expanding beyond Europe with European led projects including partners from India, Thailand, and the United States of America.

You can find detailed information about the Eurostars programme and information on how to apply at [www.eurostars-eureka.eu](http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu)

The next deadline for the submission of applications is 22 September 2011.

# News in brief

## New EUREKA Members

Over the last months, the EUREKA Network welcomed among its members the following national high-level representatives (HLRs) and national project coordinators (NPCs):

**Greece:** Mr Mark J. Assael (HLR) and Ms Maria Asimakopoulou (NPC);  
**Hungary:** Mr Sandor Erdo (HLR);  
**Ireland:** Mr Patrick Kelly (HLR); **Poland:** Prof. Krzysztof J. Kurzydowski (HLR);  
**Spain:** Ms Paloma Velasco Garcia (HLR),  
**European Commission:** Ms Clara de la Torre (HLR), Mr Fernando Trabada Crende (NPC).

## Impact Assessment Working Group

On 1 February 2011, the EUREKA Secretariat (ESE) hosted a successful working group meeting on Impact Assessment to address the following key issues:

- Five National Impact studies (DK, FR, IL, NL, ES) are already launched or in the process of being launched, and will require EUREKA's skills at synchronisation to be brought together.
- A 'global' study, driven by Israel (Applied Economics, a consulting firm) is considering using the Amadeus Database to analyse data on a European level. Data collection is being optimised, to ensure that future impact analyses can be carried out more smoothly and with more reliance on EUREKA internal databases.
- A proposal for a Steering Group of Experts nominated by EUREKA high-level representatives to drive the Impact Assessment initiative has been put forward.

The next Impact Assessment workshop will take place in May 2011.

## Seven labelled projects on ACQUEAU first call



After receiving 24 project proposal outlines, ACQUEAU, the EUREKA Cluster of the European Water Industry, is proud to announce the award of the ACQUEAU Label to seven consortia committed to developing high quality projects within the next five years; two projects will focus on membrane technology and five on water management. The project consortia involved 12 countries and 48 partners affirming the value of multi-national collaboration. SMEs and Research Institutes are well represented leading more than half of the projects. The total value of the 7 projects is 23 million euro; the mean value of projects is 3 million euro and duration 3 years. [www.acqueau.eu](http://www.acqueau.eu)

## EUREKA Inter-Cluster Info Day

On 23 February, the EUREKA Inter-Cluster Info Day took place in Eilat where participants could learn more about funding opportunities and partner-matching services through the unique EUREKA Clusters programme. Representatives of EUREKA's unique Clusters programme, including leading industry stakeholders, were present to answer questions and presented their activities, involvement in the EUREKA Clean-Tech Action, calls for proposals, and opportunities for the submission and development of new projects in clean-tech. EUREKA is Europe's largest platform for international cooperation in industrial R&D, and its thematic Clusters programme brings together SMEs, research institutes, and industry giants to produce large-scale cooperative projects in communications, energy, information technologies and water.



## The 2011 EUREKA Innovation Award to honour a successful green EUREKA project

Following in the footsteps of their German predecessors, the Israeli EUREKA Chairmanship has decided upon the entry criteria for the 2011 EUREKA Innovation Award. Nominations are invited for outstanding projects started in or after 2000 and finished no later than 2008, which directly contribute to maintaining and further creating a 'green world'. Nominated projects will be partly judged on the revenues generated by the product of the research undertaken in the project, which should total at least 200,000 euro (all partners combined). This point will be addressed via the online questionnaire sent to all nominated projects. It is felt that this most accurately reflects the focus of the Israeli Chairmanship year, notably the intensification of interest and value in the EUREKA platform.

More information on the EUREKA Israeli chairmanship activities available in the NICE News e-newsletter: [www.mygazines.com](http://www.mygazines.com)

**212** EUREKA projects finished in 2010

**389** million euro  
(total project costs)



### Eurostars: new application submission deadline!

Eurostars has shown itself to be the programme of choice for European R&D performing SMEs today. The latest Eurostars cut-off date has seen a 10% rise in the number of applications, with a grand total of 343 submissions. Next deadline for the submission of applications is Thursday, 22 September 2011 (20:00 CEST).

The EUREKA Secretariat, responsible for the management of the Eurostars Programme for hi-tech SMEs, has announced the next application deadline. The Eighth Eurostars application deadline is 1 March 2012 at 20.00 CET.

Eurostars, a joint programme with the EU, continues to be the programme of choice for SMEs who perform their own R&D and appreciate the fast and flexible approach of the programme. More information at [www.eurostars-eureka.eu](http://www.eurostars-eureka.eu)



### 2011 Opening Event – Eurostars + EUREKA Clusters

The 2011 Opening Event on EUREKA and the Clusters, organised by TUBITAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of (Turkey) took place in Istanbul on 19 January 2011. It attracted around 100 organisations (SMEs and large companies, universities and R&D institutions) interested in international R&D cooperation and a large number of participants taking the opportunity to directly

discuss issues with speakers and meet with Turkish EUREKA project officers.

Isolone Roger-Dalbert, Eurostars Project Officer, gave an introduction on EUREKA and more specifically on the Eurostars Programme. Heinz Brüggemann, Director of Celtic Office and Fopke Klok, Director of ITEA2 Office, presented the EUREKA Clusters. 25 bilateral meetings between participants and Turkish project officers were organised during the afternoon session. <http://www.tubitak.gov.tr>



### Malta seeks to boost R&D and innovation

Malta Enterprise has launched a new incentive whereby income from royalties on eligible patents will be exempt from taxation, an initiative aimed at encouraging enterprises to invest in research and knowledge creation as well as encourage the exploitation of intellectual property. The incentive was presented at the seminar on funding and assistance available for industrial research and innovation held on 18 January 2011.

The seminar also aimed at raising awareness about the Eurostars Programme, which Malta recently joined. Eurostars Call Coordinator Peter Chisnall (left) explained the mechanism of the programme and highlighted the various benefits for companies that get involved. Malta Enterprise executive chairman Alan Camilleri (below) highlighted the potential of Maltese entrepreneurs, noting that Malta ranked as one of the growth leaders amongst the moderate innovators in Europe.



### First CELTIC-Plus Call is launched- Submission deadline 9 May 2011

CELTIC-Plus, the recently extended EUREKA Cluster programme in ICT/ telecommunications, started its first Call for Proposals 2011-1 (Spring Call). A second Call will be launched in 1 July (2011-2). The new fast call process, allowing two full proposal calls per year is expected to speed up the overall proposal process by six to nine months. It is expected that accepted and labelled projects may already start in 2011! More details are provided in the Celtic-Plus Purple Book 2011. [www.celticplus.eu](http://www.celticplus.eu)



### DID YOU KNOW?

'The EU will need at least 1 million new research jobs if it is to reach the R&D target of 3%.'

[ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union)

36 months (project average duration)

79% of applicants are SMEs



EUREKA Days 2011

## Seoul, South-Korea

**EUREKA  
DAY 2011**

www.eurekaday.kr  
16-17 March 2011  
The Shilla Seoul Hotel, Korea

The Korean Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE)

organised and hosted for the second time the EUREKA Days in the Republic of Korea and focused on the following objectives:

- promote EUREKA to Korean organisations and show them the value of participating in this international network;
- introduce South Korea and Korean technologies and capabilities to the EUREKA member countries;
- information on past experiences and future expectations in the co-operation between South Korea and the EUREKA network;
- create an environment where European and Korean research-focused organisations can meet and discuss the potential for their future collaboration in the launching of EUREKA-labelled projects.

The EUREKA Days 2011 included a plenary session, high-level keynote speeches and matchmaking seminars, with the participation of relevant EUREKA Clusters and Umbrellas on: electronics and IT, clean technology and energy; industrial manufacturing and transport, bio-medical and agrofood as well as telecommunications and material and nanotechnology.

